

Look Out When Walking to School, Work, Dallas Destinations

More than 40 Dallas-Fort Worth area schools hosted Walk to School Day events Oct. 7, an international celebration of walkable communities and safe routes to schools.

Dallas-Fort Worth area schools involved parents, community leaders and faculty and staff committed to helping students walk safely to school and bus stops. Some schools organized walking school buses led by adults that departed from designated neighborhood locations. Others lined walking routes with bands and signs.

Walk to School Day, started in 1997 and celebrated each October in 50 states, the District of Columbia and more than 40 countries, aims to highlight the health and air quality benefits of walking to school.

Whether walking to school, work or other places in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, it's important to be alert and look out for cars. A few things to remember when walking:

Tip #1: Cross in crosswalks at intersections.

Tip #2: Do not cross between parked vehicles or vehicles waiting at traffic signals. It's difficult for people driving or bicycling to see crossing pedestrians in these locations. Avoid this dangerous situation by locating a safe crosswalk at an intersection.

Tip #3: Look both ways before crossing a street. Look left, right, and left again to ensure a safe crossing. Be especially aware of turning vehicles.

Tip #4: At signalized intersections, cross only when the signal indicates it is safe.



Walk Signal: Start crossing. Be sure to look both ways before entering the roadway.

Flashing or counting down hand: Don't start! Do not enter the roadway; finish crossing if you've already started.

Steady hand: Don't cross! Do not enter the roadway. Yield to vehicles until the "walk" sign appears.

People driving should always yield to crossing pedestrians, but it's important people walking look out, too. Understanding how people walking, bicycling and driving should interact together is important to improving safety on area roads and protecting our friends, families and neighbors. To see more walking safety tips as well as bicycling and driving safety tips that will be highlighted around the region this fall, visit www.LookOutTexans.org.